

## CATEGORY

**ARCHITECTURE: COMMERCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL UNDER 1,000 SQM/ RECREATIONAL STRUCTURES**

## DESCRIPTION

The 2015 Toronto Pan Am & Parapan Am BMX Supercross Legacy Project is difficult to categorise. It is a structure within a park that accommodates the park's storage needs, two permanent start ramps for BMX Supercross events, one at 8 meters and the other at 5 meters high, a permanent, concrete and steel screened structure and a 517 meter, ephemeral dirt track. It has a board formed retaining wall of over 27 meters length and ranging in height from 0.5 to 6 meters high.

It is an object in a landscape and a landscape in its own right.

The BMX Supercross Track was designed and constructed to the exacting standards of the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) certification board. It has been certified by this group and as such is the only track in Canada to be recognised.

The site of the track, which was determined prior to the design team being engaged, was quickly found to be a low point of the park and its drainage catchment area was enormous. Building a dirt track on essentially a catchment area required an extensive underground drainage system, influencing architectural, structural and civil engineering interventions. The flows had to be managed to allow the track to be dry within 30 minutes of a rainfall, one of the criteria for the games, and the water quality had to satisfy the requirements of the Toronto Region Conservation Authority as a designated wetland area lies immediately to the south of the site.

The aesthetics of various concrete finishes and materials allowed the practical considerations of storage, ramp heights and retaining wall sections to each be expressed as architectural elements within a single form. Board formed concrete, prefinished concrete block and smooth-faced framing members all add to the distinct language of each element. At once separate and unified.

## PROJECT SPECS

Footprint of Storage/Start Gate Building - 575 s.m.;  
Distributed Site Area - 2.55 Ha.; 517 meter dirt tracking;

## ENTRY

**#1167 2015 PAN AM AND PARA PAN AM LEGACY BMX SUPERCROSS TRACK**

27 meter long retaining wall ranging in height from 0.5 to 6.0 meters high; Project Cost - \$3.7 M. CDN.; Board-formed Concrete, Glazed Concrete Block, Smooth-faced poured Concrete Framing; Galvanized Steel Tubing (various diameter dimensions); Compacted Earth Berms; Permeable Asphalt; sod

The project was built during the winter months, due primarily to the short time frame between the award and the 2015 Games. The contractor was highly experienced in Highway and Infrastructure construction and this was essential to the success of the project. The team worked as one firm, an unusual experience in the architectural world and it proved to be a very satisfying process for all team members.

The Civil Engineering interventions were designed on a park-wide basis, given the location of the project at the lowest point of the park section. The Galvanized Steel tubing, which defines the start gates and Storage areas was chosen for its "off-the-shelf" convenience and ease of installation and pre-finishing. The durability of the materials was an over-riding consideration for the project, given its location in a public park that is open 24/7 year round and the intended use for riders from 5 years old to adults on an unsupervised track.